

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:

1. A method for muting zero level pulse code modulated (PCM) samples received as inputs to a digital to analog converter (DAC) including a PCM input module and a mapping module, the method comprising:

monitoring a level of the PCM samples received as inputs to the PCM input module;

sensing consecutive zero level PCM samples from among the monitored input PCM samples; and

muting a PCM input to the mapper when a predetermined number of zero level PCM samples have been sensed.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising un-muting the PCM input to the mapper when a first non-zero level PCM sample is been sensed.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the muting and un-muting is configured for autonomous activation.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined number is programmable.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the non-zero level PCM sample immediate follows the consecutive zero level PCM samples.

6. An apparatus for muting zero level pulse code modulated (PCM) samples received as inputs to a digital to analog converter (DAC) including a PCM input module and a mapping module, the apparatus comprising:

means for monitoring a level of the PCM samples received as inputs to the PCM input module;

means for sensing consecutive zero level PCM samples from among the monitored input PCM samples; and

means for muting a PCM input to the mapper when a predetermined number of zero level PCM samples have been sensed.

7. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising means for un-muting the PCM input to the mapper when a first non-zero level PCM sample has been sensed.

8. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the muting and un-muting is automatic.

9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the predetermined number is programmable.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the non-zero level PCM sample immediately follows the consecutive zero level PCM samples.